

BY TANMAY MULAY



HOCKER



Chapter 1

"One more week," I said to a 5'9" reflection of me. It was in the middle of spring, the season before summer. I was just waiting for spring break, which is in one week. Suddenly, as if she was standing there the whole time, my mom barged in which made me scared out of my living daylights. If my mom was a superior at anything it would be barging into rooms at odd and unusual times. Fortunately, she only wanted to take my dirty laundry and not discuss what I was saying to my mirror. Two seconds later as she was walking out the door she turned around and almost whipped me in the face with her dirty blond hair. She said an apology and asked the question I most dreaded; "One more week for what?"

Uh-oh, what would I tell her? I was shivering even though it was a very warm sunny day outside. I couldn't just blurt out that I was talking about spring break. I know it seems weird, but try to imagine parents who are both scientific freaks! Every time I don't have to go to school, my parents plan a trip to a museum or a laboratory. I think I know more about the Museum of National History than its owner, and that is saying something. Well, now you know the dilemma I am in. I have to think up of an excuse fast because by now I was sweating buckets. "You know Mom, one more week till...um the Science Fair!" This was a good excuse and I was congratulating myself, but the reply that came next couldn't have ever come to me. "Oh, so if that's it than I will personally help you myself" she said.

I thought after a moment of shock and replied, "Um... no mom, I mean I want to see if I have as much scientific potential as you."

"Okay honey, but if you need any help don't be shy to ask me."

"Sure thing mom"

She left the room, but before I can take a sigh of relief, she came back.

"Another thing Sean."

"What mom?"

"Your father and I are presenting a new kind of technology at the Army Communications, Radars, and Electronics Museum and you're coming with us." And with that she left, closing the door behind her.

I made sure she was gone then I went to sit on my bed. It was a normal twin size bed with sky blue bed sheets and a blanket with a lightning pattern on it, but it was mine. I looked around my room. Unlike many other boys, my room was really tidy. One reason was that I had drawers everywhere; in my bed, in my dressing table, in my closet, in my office desk, and in my bedside table. Having a tidy room always made me feel like a clean freak. To make up for it, I put up matrix wallpaper and then put posters of Lamborghini's, Corvettes, and Mustangs all over my wall. Sometimes looking up at them makes me feel like a normal kid.

I walked over to my desk where I saw my 3 laptops. Oh yeah, I am an expert with technology, as is my whole family. I organized my desk by just shoving things into drawers. The one thing I didn't put away was a bracelet made from the Redwood trees in California, but there was one thing in specific that intrigued me. It had some inscriptions etched with real gold. I didn't know what the inscriptions meant. Though the bracelet

was only 4.5 inches in diameter, to me it was very valuable. Also, the wood is not rough or scale like, it is actually very smooth. It was not because of the wood or the gold, it was how I got it that made it valuable. I still remember my 7th birthday when I received this bracelet as a gift. I was pretty psyched about it then, but my parents told me something that I still after 7 years don't understand. With a kind of sad and kind of serious tone they said, "Keep this bracelet safe Sean, It- it will help you later on." Since I was seven I didn't really make sense of what just happened, but I did keep the bracelet safe, I had never even worn it. After the flashback, I reverted my attention back to the bracelet, it seemed to glisten even more in the bright morning sunlight of spring. I picked it up and examined it; it was as smooth as soap, which was peculiar considering that it was made from a bark of a tree. Anyway I tried to wear it, but then I heard the call for breakfast. I put the bracelet in the very back of a drawer. And went to freshen up.

I got up and put on new blue jeans and a new T-shirt. I ran downstairs and sat down right next to my dad. You could see he had taken a bath, because his blonde hair was still wet. He was wearing black dress pants and a plain blue dress shirt with a black tie strapped on. His clear white glasses reflected the screen of the laptop he was staring at.

Our family has a lot of computers and laptops since we are experts with technology. The laptop my dad was on was a Sony VAIO. We only brought it a week ago. It was black in color and had Windows 7. Since my mom was still preparing breakfast in the kitchen, I thought I can steal a peek at what my dad was so interested about on the laptop. I leaned over and saw a little bit of the screen, before the screen sparked. And then crashed.

Chapter 2

"Hey Sean, catch up!" Lucy screamed at me.

"What? Why?" I replied

"Cause I don't want you getting eaten by Nidhogg today" She said, yanking my arm to go with her.

"What? Nidhogg? Not possible, I thought we lost him at the park"

"Well, you think too much. Look behind you."

I turned around to see a terrifying sight. Only about 2 miles away was the mythological monster, Nidhogg. Though this time he was real. The monster was easily 30 feet tall (On four legs), 35 feet wide, and 50 feet long. It was like looking at a T-Rex hungry for flesh and meat, I mean our flesh and meat. The monster was charging, horn first, at me, I thought I was dead meat, but Lucy made my conscious come back and then we both got the heck out of there.

After a few miles when the population of where we were, seemed little. We could still hear all the commotion Nidhogg was making, still lumbering after us. I was not scared, I was frightened and plus there was no one to help us. I asked Lucy to think of a plan since she was smarter, but when I turned to look at her, she wasn't there.

Uh-oh, Lucy's gone and Nidhogg is still after me, why did my life have to be so bad? Then suddenly I heard a voice, Lucy's voice, she was here! I saw Lucy form right beside

me. It wasn't weird since she had the power of air, but I still was worried where she had gone. "Where were you?" I asked with a commanded voice.

"No time for questions now. Right now we have to get far away from Nidhogg." she said as if I were a stupid baby, who didn't know that he was in danger.

Lucy started to fly (Another power) since that was a faster way of transportation. She was already a way ahead of me. I needed some fast source of transportation, Fast! I looked into my memories, to see if they had something useful. Then I remembered something from my 6th grade science teacher: "Lightning travels at about 224,000 mph."

Perfect! I tried to channel some of my powers, so that I can use that electric to make me run as fast as lightning. Closing my eyes, I felt the electric inside me. Lucy can fly or turn into air, but I can run as fast as a lightning bolt, I can run extreme speed.

Chapter 3

I was sitting in the back of our Porsche. Usually I would look outside the window to catch people staring at my...I mean our car. Anyway, instead of doing that I was thinking about what had happened that morning. "How can that laptop just crash like that, it wasn't even that old." I whispered.

"What did you say Sean" my father asked looking into the rear view mirror.

I was surprised, no one had said anything to me since the incident.

I looked up and said "Excuse me?"

"I asked you what you were whispering"

"Oh, I was thinking about this morning"

There was a minute of silence while I looked at him through the rear view mirror. He had a look as if he were thinking very hard.

"Yeah, I don't know how that happened" He finally said.

"I am sorry, if I did something wrong"

"Don't take it out on yourself, honey. There could've been a malfunction or something." my mom said, trying to comfort me and be optimistic like she always is.

"Thanks mom." I replied

I started to look out the window since no one had anything to say. Instead of focusing on the roads or the cars, I looked up at the sky. The clouds were combining together casting an eerie shadow all over Edison. Weird, just a few minutes ago the sun was bright and the day was hot. It should've been even hotter since it was around noon. Thinking about noon, I pulled out my phone to check the time. It seemed as if we spent at least 4 hours in the car. I turned on my phone, when the screen came up I saw something wrong. My phone, a Droid 2, was not showing the time, date, or any bars. How could there not be the time or date, I always had the widget there. I thought I was hallucinating, because of sitting in the car so long. Closing my eyes, I crossed my hands over my chest, and just then I fell fast asleep.

I was at the museum we were going to, The Army Communications, Radars, and Electronics Museum. I was standing in the ancient armory artifact section, when I heard a crash and then someone came running into the room yelling "EVACUATE THE

BUILDING! The technology section has just blown up!"

I started to evacuate along with the other panicked people. I looked at a small girl, no bigger than 8, being rushed out by her parents. Parents! Where were my mother and father they had gone into... I gulped as I realized the terrifying and horrible truth. My parents were in the technology part of the museum. Then my dream turned black and dissolved.

I woke up sweating furiously, to the sound of my mother saying, "Sean, get up we're here!"

"Uhhhhhhhh.... huh?" I managed to say.

"We're here, at the museum."

"Oh...yeah, thanks for waking me up." I said.

"You're welcome, now get out of the car," she replied

I stepped out of the car, trying to remember the dream/nightmare I just had. That had to be just a simple, non-real nightmare. Right?

Chapter 4

One thing I can tell you about running at about 3,700 miles per second is that you feel extremely dizzy. When I stopped running, I heard a sound like thunder coming from behind me, but then I remembered that thunder always comes after a lightning strike. Anyway, I outran Lucy, but she appeared next to me in about 5 minutes. Anyway, I know that we were somewhere in Illinois, because while running I saw a billboard saying, WLCM T ILNIS. Using something called common sense I figured that must mean, WELCOME TO ILLINOIS, and the words got blurred since I ran so fast. I don't care where we are, but at least we're away from that big, fat, and ugly monster. I sat down because I still felt a little nauseous, but right then Lucy appeared next to me with a wallet. "Hey," I said, "W-where did you get that wallet from."

"I sto-I mean burrowed it"

"Everyone knows that in this century, "borrowed" means stole." I said

"Doesn't matter, the bottom line is that we need food and shelter. Now are you coming or not."

I got up and rubbed my pants of the wet dirt I was sitting on. We had found a hidden place in the woods to stay for a while. I would've preferred someplace... you know, clean. But girls these days. I looked at Lucy, who was a year younger than me and like 4 inches shorter than me. I looked at her , into those sky blue eyes which sometimes changed into a light shade of gray, her loose blonde hair (which looked more beautiful when covered in dirt and leaves, and those tiny freckles around and on her nose). Lucy summoned a huge gust of wind, which blew me back about 18 feet, into a tree.

"Ow" I complained, "Don't ever do that aga-"

She threw one more gust of wind at me, but I dodged that and threw a ball of electricity back at her. She got shocked and went flying back. I took in a moment to realize what I just did. After celebrating my first electrical attack. I looked at Lucy.

"HA!" I yelled

She was struggling to get back up. Her hair was all frizzy, like one of the wigs Lady Gaga would wear. I went to go help her and support her. Finally, after about taking 3 minutes to get Lucy up, she asked in an amazed tone, "How did you do that?"

“Um, I don’t really know exactly. It was as if my body controlled it, like an instinct.”

“Try it again”

I tried to control some electricity, but couldn’t harness that much power again.

“I-I can’t do it. Before, I had a moti-”

Before I can finish my thought. Lucy threw another ball of wind, making me go airborne. Somebody has to teach her lesson about suddenly sending people flying. Anyway, I landed hard on my butt. She started to charge on more gust, but my instincts took over and I felt electricity growing inside me. I looked at my hands which were covered with a ball of lightning. My clothes were blowing back, and I was hovering over the ground. I put my hands together and from them came a powerful beam, strong enough to shake the ground. Lucy panicked and flew up high far away from the beam. The tree that met with the beam was pulverized into a pile of sawdust and branches. I landed on the ground, sweating like crazy, looked up at Lucy to see if she was okay and to see her expression. She looked like she was on the verge of crying, plus she also looked like a stampede went over her. Still I was pretty happy that she was safe and not little Lucy pieces. I smiled with dirt in between my teeth and then fainted.

Chapter 5

When I got out of the car I was a little crabby, It felt weird having dried saliva around my mouth. I quickly wiped my face with my sleeve. We locked the car and walked to the museum. The parking lot was huge and had about a gazillion cars in it, so there was a mad rush for the museum. We started to walk up the steps ,which seemed endless, and we eventually bumped into people. I didn’t know that I would meet one of the second most important person in my life today.

We kept on walking bumping into people; children, adults, and senior citizens. At one time I bumped into a girl who looked to be around my age. I was astounded by her beauty; she had extremely long blond hair blowing back like the red flag a bull fighter waves by an invisible wind, she had the perfect amount of freckles on and around her nose ,which looked cuter when she sneered at me, and her piercing gray eyes cut straight through my heart. What was I thinking, this might be the only time I will see her in my life. She looked at me, with a look with confusion and disdain, but she was turned away my her parents. Her parents looked more like criminals, than parents. I looked at my own parents... nah not criminals, but sometimes act like them.

We finally entered the museum, and at first I thought I was at the White House. There were marble columns everywhere that bolstered the vast and endless ceiling. There were artifacts and exhibits everywhere; ancient weapons, modern equipment, World War 2 artifacts, etc. Everything was white. It was like a blizzard went through here. I only came here once before and I couldn’t believe how much it had changed; from bricks to marble and stupid crummy artifacts to 100ft long submarines, and you get the idea. I was standing there astounded taking in everything when my dad came and broke me out of trance. I stared at him waiting to say something.

“Sean, your mother and I have to go rehearse our lines before the presentation”

“Okay, dad”

“You have your cell phone”

“Yeah, dad”

"Okay, here is 25 bucks if you want anything"

"Thanks dad" I replied, and that was that. Father and son bonding time: 20 seconds.

This is my life. When my dad left, I went to go check out some exhibits in the army section. There, I saw everything from prehistoric wars to the Trojan War to the Cold War. I saw an artifact from the Revolutionary War, a musket that was proven to have been touched by George Washington himself. I observed it very closely, but it didn't seem that interesting. I walked into the ancient armory room, just before I realized what was happening.

I took only a few steps before, I heard a crash. Wait a second... I somehow knew this would happen. My dream! Oh-n-

A man ran into the room screaming, "EVACUATE THE BUILDING, THE TECHNOLOGY PART OF THE BUILDING HAS JUST BLOWN UP!!!!"

I panicked, this was actually like my night- I mean vision I had.

How did I know?

I stood there confused and horrified as someone grabbed my hand and started to drag me out of the museum. I tried to remember what would happen next in my vision, but I stopped trying when I saw who was dragging me. The girl!

I stopped and stood up straight, she seemed to look at me as if I were a bone head.

Those big blue eyes... weren't they gray when I saw them before. I didn't have time to think, because she grabbed my arm and started to run. Dang, I never knew a girl could have such a strong grip. Anyway, I saw that she was looking behind every two minutes. I asked her "Why do you keep looking behind us?"

"Huh?"

"I said, why do you keep looking behind us?"

"Oh. Ummmm-" But she didn't get to finish her sentence, because right then there was another crash followed by a *BOOM!* The sound I most dreaded just came to me. The girl stopped and so did I. We looked behind us to see what had happened. Another half of the building blew up, and so will the other half. After we saw the carnage we found renowned strength and ran even faster. As we ran the building kept blowing up behind us. By now all the other people have evacuated, "*except my parents*" I thought. I shook my head to get that thought out of my head. Right now, my goal is to get out of here alive. I looked up at the ceiling; the bright white marble was now blotched with brown burn marks and looked as if it were about to collapse. Actually, I think it will collapse, because right that second a huge chunk of the ceiling hit the floor with a shuddering crash. We tried to dodge the shattered pieces zooming toward us. It looked as if you were watching an asteroid movie in 3D, but the asteroids were real.

I looked in front of us, but it wasn't that pretty either. Some debris from the ceiling was starting to block the exit. I think the girl also saw the problem because her grip tightened and she started to run even faster. We ran and ran avoid the projectiles flying toward us. The door seemed to be getting closer but that's when a crack appeared above the door. That can never be good. The girl gasped and halted, but I knew I can't leave her here. I kept my momentum, now dragging her along. She came back to conscious and started to run with me. I think I also saw her say something under her breath, something

like “gust”. I didn’t get a time to ask because suddenly a gust of wind came from behind us and gave a little boost to our running. Though we were now a little close to the door, it wasn’t enough. The crack above the door grew longer and wider.

We now started to jump over the debris which fell from the ceiling, which slowed us down. We simultaneously looked at the door which looked as if it were about to shatter like a piece of glass. We sprinted a little more and finally dove under the collapsing door.

Chapter 6

I don’t know where I woke up, but I can tell firsthand it looked like an abandoned warehouse. The walls were rotten wood. The place was crawling with rats, I knew that because I felt something small and furry against me. I wasn’t scared because when you have - had parents who worked with lab animals almost every day, then you wouldn’t care. I got up and dusted off my pants. Wrong move. As soon as I dusted my pants, I was surrounded by a huge dust cloud. I started to wave my hands and cough deliberately. I covered my face with the collar of my shirt. I couldn’t see anything except for the walls, because it was pitch black. I put out my hand and summoned a little globe of electricity.

That seemed to illuminate the building by a lot. Now I can see exactly where I was. Actually, it did look like an abandoned warehouse. There were cobwebs at every corner, raisins-wait scratch that, not raisins. Except for the ceiling and walls and the other Halloween decorations, there was nothing here.

I started to take a few steps, but that’s when I heard another sound. I stopped abruptly and listened. It didn’t sound like rats, but it sounded like footsteps. Small, little, soft steps. I turned to look behind me because that’s where I thought the sound was coming from. I pointed the light in that direction and saw a girl. It was Lucy. She had brought a tray of food. My mouth started to water. I couldn’t remember when I ate last. 2 or 3 days ago? I think Lucy scowled at me because when I looked up at her, she looked mad. “Will you stop staring at the food, and ask what happened after you fainted?” she asked with a look of disdain.

“Well, hello to you too.” I said.

“Don’t try to be a wise guy, because you’re not at all wise, and you’re not a guy” she replied.

“Hey, offensive” I complained.

She threw the tray of food at me which fell into the dust and then was swarming with rats. I decided to suck it up and went to catch up with Lucy.

THIS WAS A FREE PREVIEW OF TANMAY’S BOOK

SHOCKER

